

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF INTELLIGENCE AND RESEARCH

TO: The Secretary
THROUGH: S/S
FROM: INR - Roger Hilsman

INTELLIGENCE NOTE: East Germans Follow Czechs to Moscow

Discussion on Cuba Probable. Immediately following the departure of a top-level Czechoslovak delegation from Moscow on October 31, a five-man East German group of nearly identical composition arrived. The timing of the visit, and the participants, point strongly - as in the Czechoslovak instance - towards a discussion of the effects of the Cuban crisis upon short-range bloc policy and tactics.

The group consists of the Party First Secretary and head of state; a top Party economic specialist; the top planner and permanent representative to CEMA; the leading Party ideologist; and the chief of personnel matters. They were welcomed by Brezhnev, Kozlov, and Kosygin - all of whom had met and participated in discussions with the Czechoslovaks.

Berlin in Foreground. The strong US stand on Cuba - taken as a sign of Western determination to protect West Berlin - has reportedly caused considerable dismay among SED functionaries. The current visit may be intended to provide the Ulbricht regime with guidance on Soviet tactics on Berlin for the coming period.

Possible Step-Up in East German Economic Aid to Cuba. In contrast to the heavy Czechoslovak involvement in Cuba, the Ulbricht regime has entered into relatively few contractual agreements with Havana. Because of acute food shortages in East Germany, any East German aid to Cuba would most likely take the form of industrial products or technical aid.